

Organization: “Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development “(Environmental Ambassadors, EASD)

**Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development (Environmental Ambassadors, EASD)** is a non-for-profit professional association focusing work on education, as well as the research and science (professional and participant science/citizen science) promotion, in the areas of sustainable development and environment, through the consultancy, expertise, innovation, capacity building, evidence-based advocacy, promotion of natural and culture values, equality and justice. <http://ambassadors-env.com/en/> . We are independent group of professionals, i.e. experts at different level of carrier in various fields.

EASD has special consultative status in **UN ECOSOC**; accredited in United Nations – **UNEP** (UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum); Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (**SAICM**) NGO Focal Point; National Member of The Foundation for Environmental Education – **FEE** Serbia; Institutional Member of **ACUNS** – Academic Council on the United Nations System; **IPEN** network Participating Organization; European Environment Bureau Member– **EEB**, **ECSA** – European Citizen Science Association Member, Women Engaged in Common Future (**WECF**) member; Associate Member to **ESDN** Association.



“Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development” develops and performs activities within the **program areas**: – Scientific, Innovative, Research and Professional Work & Expertise and Consulting; – Education for Environment and Sustainable Development; – Sustainable development; – Environment. Projects we implement are available at <http://ambassadors-env.com/en/project/> .

Active projects and programs in November 2020. are:

1	WatSanPlan (Water and Sanitation Safety Planning in the Balkan Region: Albania, North Macedonia, Romania and Serbia)	Supported by funds from the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU)
2	Gender and Chemicals: development and preparation of webinar course “Fostering female leadership: training women to address chemicals and waste in the public setting”	Supported by IPEN
3	Adaptation of the innovative interactive learning toolkit on climate change – the Climate Box	Supported by UNDP (GEF)

Organization: “Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development “(Environmental Ambassadors, EASD)

4	Sustainable Development Goal 13 – Climate Action; Combating climate change and its impact in local communities	Supported by Serbian Ministry of Environment (to be ended in 2020)
5	ENV-net factoring the environmental portfolio for Western Balkans and Turkey in the EU Policy Agenda	Supported by EU, EuropeAid/154870/ACT/Multi (to be ended in 2020)
6	Program Environment to Europe - EnE	Supported by different donors
7	Program Eco-Schools	Partially supported by different donors, National Operator for Serbia
8	EU Environment Partnership Programme for Accession, participant organization	Voluntarily
9	Energy Efficiency in Eco-schools	Supported by Public Utility EPS (to be ended in 2020)
10	Every can counts in Eco-schools	Supported by RECAN foundation (continuation tbd)
11	Program Blue Flag	National Operator for Serbia
12	Program Green Key	

**Implements activities globally, in the region of South Eastern Europe and nationally (Serbia).** On an international level, EASD work in collaboration with many networks (global, pan European, European). The EASD has a track record of effective regional coalition building and partnerships (towards regional environmental cohesion). At national level, EASD network is comprised, among others, of more than 130 Eco-Schools, targeting more than 10000 individuals and Forum of friends (EASD Club), with more than 1000 interested individuals. At grassroots level EASD ensure an effective complement to direct evidence-based advocacy and mobilization.

**Focus thematic issues** are: — Sustainable Development Goals; – Education for sustainable development; – Sustainable Production and Consumption; – Science (Research and Citizen science and science promotion); – Nature and biodiversity; – Waste and chemicals, and – other working areas (Climate change issues, Sustainable tourism, Sustainable fashion and textile, Policy and governance, Resource efficiency, Circular economy, Water and sanitation, Air pollution, Eco-labeling, Energy-Environment nexus, Environmental rights and justice and security, EU accession and enlargement, Gender issues, Culture and art, Food and nutrition).

We are “bridging” global and European scale environmental/climate change/ sustainable development issues in focus with sub-regional South Eastern Europe challenges, and vice versa. We are “walking through actions” thematic issues of concern, like waste and chemicals, biodiversity, climate change, circular economy concept, SDGs in practice.

Activities are focused to **thematic groups**: Promoting sustainable development and SDGs; Environment and Natural Resources; Climate action; Environmental Security and Justice; Building partnerships; Raising awareness on emerging issues.

Organization: "Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development "(Environmental Ambassadors, EASD)

## List of selected activities

January: National FEE Council and National Blue Flag Jury Meeting

- 2019** January: WEBINAR – Regional Forum of Sustainable Development (RFSD) for the UNECE Region: we participate; As a representative of the Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development (EASD), on 28th of January Honorable member Danko Aleksic participated in the webinar entitled “**Civil Society Participation at the Regional Forum of Sustainable Development for the UNECE Region**”.

January/February: Advancing environmental sustainability action- Financial Support to Third Parties for **Monitoring and Evidence-Based Advocacy** under the ENV.Net Project - Awarded organizations and projects are following: 1. “Education Development Centre “Planet” from Sombor, project “The Hive- circular economy as a model of entrepreneurship for the youth”; 2. Association of citizens „Zlatiborski krug“ from Čajetina, project „Model of circular economy in the service of environmental protection in the municipality of Cajetina“

March: **EASD participated at 2019 UN Environment global events in Nairobi**, including Global Major Groups and Stakeholder Forum (GMGSF) and at Science, Policy and Business Forum (9-10 March), UN Environment Assembly (11-15 March) and side events, Green Tent events and Sustainable Innovation Expo.



Organization: “Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development “(Environmental Ambassadors, EASD)

April/May/June: Round table AIR QUALITY IN SERBIA AND REGION, YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND TOMORROW – CLEAN AIR – HEALTHY FUTURE. EnE19 Conference / Round table was held in Belgrade on June 4th, 2019. It was platform for interesting and fruitful statements and discussion. On the World Environment Day in the European sustainable development week, traditionally, this event is organized by “Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development” and Serbian Chamber of Commerce – “Environment towards Europe – EnE19”.



June: As the National Operator for “Green Key”, EASD awarded Zlatibor Mona hotel – the only hotel in Serbia outside of Belgrade with international Eco certification “Green Key”

June: EASD participate at **Sub-Regional Consultation Meeting on the Establishment of the South East European Platform to Beat Pollution – SEEPP**, was held on June 24-25, 2019, at the premises of Vienna International Center. The meeting was organised by UN Environment – Vienna Programme Office in the framework of the project “**Regional Cooperation in South Eastern Europe to Beat Pollution**”, funded by the Directorate for Sustainable Development, Environmental Damage, European Union and International Affairs of the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea. This meeting is continuation of the process started in December 2019, during the Ministerial conference held in Belgrade, and side event, organized in margins of UNEA4, in March 2019, at the premises of UN Headquarter in Nairobi.



Organization: “Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development “(Environmental Ambassadors, EASD)

July: Serbia and Agenda 2030 – **Shadow Report to Voluntary National Report** presented by EASD President in UN New York. **Participation at High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)** – From July 9th to 18th, at the premises of UN Headquarters in New York, High Level Political Forum (HLPF) was held, with participation of thousands representatives of national and local governments, major groups and other stakeholders. Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development (EASD) had opportunity to present the Shadow Report to the Serbian Voluntary National Review, prepared by the Government of the Republic of Serbia, as specific overview regarding implementation of Agenda 2030 in Serbia. This Shadow Report has been prepared under the project Women2030 (Women and the SDGs), led by international organization Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF).



September/October: EASD is participating in **Shaping the future beyond 2020**. At the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok, Thailand, from 1 to 4 October 2019, EASD Honorable President participate at **IP3 – The Intersessional Process 3 on Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste (SAICM) beyond 2020**, and technical briefings held on 30 September 2019, as well as IPEN preparatory meetings on 28 and 29 September.



Organization: "Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development "(Environmental Ambassadors, EASD)

October/November: **Shadow Report on the VNR of the Agenda 2030 implementation in Serbia is finalized**



October/ November/December: EASD participated at **2019 FEE National Operator's Meetings**. The Blue Flag National Operator Meeting gathered over 50 participants from all over the world on 8-9 October. This two-day event was held by Keep Britain Tidy, Blue Flag National Operator in **England**! Eco-Schools National Operators Meeting 2019, hosted by Eco-Schools Netherlands at the Green Key awarded bungalow park Landal Reeuwijk from 11-14 November, The Hague, **the Netherlands**. The annual 2019 Green Key National Operators Meeting is in December in **Doha, Qatar**. An opportunity for members of the Green Key International network to share best practices and discuss the programme with colleagues from around the world!

December: In partnership with Serbian Environmental Protection Agency, EASD prepared and published "**Kopaonik – Serbian Mountain**"

Also, EASD prepared and published **Circular economy in Serbia – process started** (in English and Serbian), and **Responsible Eating** (in Serbian).

2020

February: EASD participated at **Global Meeting & Forum on Chemicals and Waste, 2020**. EASD participated at IPEN Global Meeting and Forum on Chemicals and Waste, among 93 environmental and health leaders; international health and science experts; and government and UN agency representatives from 51 countries. EASD Honorable President presented "Initiatives towards MIA –

Organization: “Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development “(Environmental Ambassadors, EASD)

Minamata Initial Assessment implementation: in coal combustion, application, use and disposal of dental amalgam fillings and management of waste with mercury”. Meeting was held @ Kuriftu Resort, Lake Bishoftu@ **Ethiopia** – The Land of Origins (coffee is great!), a symbol of African freedom, with more than 100 million people and 86+ languages.

February: EASD continuous action - Message from our 14 NGOs to Brussels: **End amalgam use!**

February: EASD Honorable President, as the expert from EASD, participated at **Technical Expert Workshop on Criteria for Substances of International Concern Beyond 2020**, held on 24-25 February 2020, Gothenburg, Sweden, and organised by UNITAR, KEMI and University of Gothenburg.

February: EASD co-host Panel on **Air pollution in Serbia** in EU Info Center in Belgrade.



March: EASD participated, within the framework of ENV.net project, 2nd **Regional Conference on Circular Economy in Western Balkan and Turkey**, Tirana, **Albania**, March 2020

March-December: In pandemical circumstances, EASD continue with remote work on projects and programs, like:

- As one of the partner in Women2030 project, leaded by WECF , Environmental Ambassadors **monitored the implementation of the SDGs** and collected primary data thanks to questionnaires delivered and focus group discussions organized with community groups. The results presented provide an overview of the community-based data collected through Eco-schools Serbia network, as part of the Gender Assessment.

Organization: "Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development "(Environmental Ambassadors, EASD)

- Conducted EASD **e-awareness raising campaign: attention to environmentally and health friendly waste management in corona virus pandemic related situation**
- EASD contribute with data on Serbia to EEB ZMWG on review of A and B of the **Minamata Convention**; In September (Our) Berlin Declaration have the quotation in the European Commission's Report.
- EASD is engaged with its **preparatory process and exchange views with Major Groups towards UNEA5**. Two EASD representatives and experts participated: - on 3 June 2020, at webinar on '**Capacity Building for UNEA-5**' for Major Groups and Stakeholders, conducted by the Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future; - on June 7, 2020, at **Major Groups and Stakeholders Consultation** , facilitated by the Norwegian Forum for Development and Environment, this meeting is bringing together representatives of Major Groups and Stakeholders to discuss the theme of UNEA 5 and related sub-themes, prepare their views and positions, including for presenting them to member states; - on June 9, 2020, at **Connecting People and Nature: Transforming the global food systems** ; explore opportunities for transforming agriculture and food systems, employing nature-friendly practices and taking into account food systems, food and nutrition security, and livelihoods. This dialogue will build momentum for a collaborative approach between public and private actors at the fifth meeting of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5) and, ultimately, will feed into the UN Food Systems Summit—a critical opportunity to set a course to radically transform our food systems.
- **EnE20 Conference "Citizen science: Focus on Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals"**. Traditionally, it is an official event that marks the UN World Environment Day (WED) in the Republic of Serbia and region. In accordance with the current circumstances around Covid19, the EnE20 conference **"Citizen Science: focus on Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals"** is realized online, presenting the results so far achieved in the development of citizen science concept in Serbia. Bearing in mind that the concept of "citizen science" in Serbia is still developing, but supported through various joint actions and initiatives of scientists and formal / informal civic activists and organizations, the focus is to youth participation, especially through educational institutions involved in international Eco-schools' program in Serbia. This year, the co-organizers of EnE20 are the UN in Serbia, the Global Listening Center, the Center for the Promotion of Science, NALED, the French Institute in Serbia and PE Ada Ciganlija .



Organization: "Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development "(Environmental Ambassadors, EASD)



- As part of the celebration of World Environment Day and as a special part of the EnE20 conference, a **national debate** is held for 20 students aged 11 to 18, who were nominated in the essay part of the competition organized by the international organization **The Trust for Sustainable Living**. The aim of the debate is to find solutions for a sustainable future by referring to SDG 17, My vision: Partnerships for a sustainable future.



- 2020 ACUNS Annual Meeting – **UN @ 75: The Future of Partnership and Multilateralism**, EASD participated. EASD particular interest are thematic sessions: THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE UNITED NATIONS IN GLOBAL

Organization: “Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development “(Environmental Ambassadors, EASD)

GOVERNANCE, The Future of the UN: Beyond Traditional Multilateralism, The Role of Civil Society in an Internationalized World, Women in Leadership in Global Governance, Global (Human) Security Challenges Post-1990, Sustainable Development Goals and Inclusiveness and Multilateralism: Lessons Learned

- EASD participated at **IPEN Women’s Caucus Virtual Meeting**, Sept 24, 2020
- EASD join **research on SDGs** - Center for Sustainable Development, Earth Institute, Columbia University, USA initiated Consortium on organization implementing research relevant to SDGs (primarily SDG 4). EASD join Consortium.
- **New Momentum for the Environmental Agenda in the Western Balkans and Turkey?**. On 22 October 2020, the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) and ENV.net, a regional network of environmental CSOs in the Western Balkans and Turkey, organized an online conference for citizens’ environmental organizations from the EU and the region as well as stakeholders from the European Commission and other institutions. **New opportunities coming to the region on the heel of the European Green Deal**, and its local rollout, the Green Agenda for the Balkans, as well as other current developments concerning the environmental agenda in the region, were discussed. EASD President co-facilitated interactive breakout sessions with country teams DG NEAR Serbia. There are more than 50 participants.
- **EASD research presented at EurAsia Waste Management Symposium**, Istanbul, Turkey. EASD research on circular economy (paper Circular Economy goes beyond Waste Management 2020), supported by ENV.net project, on October 27 2020, was presented at EurAsia Waste Management Symposium.
- EASD join EEB and ENV.net, and some other organizations to **Joint civil society statement**. Make the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans drive the transition to a sustainable, carbon-neutral wellbeing economy that works for people, **for the upcoming Sofia Summit**, addressed to the Heads of Government / Heads of State of Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania, Kosovo\* and North Macedonia, the EU Commissioner for Environment, the EU Commissioner for Neighborhood and Enlargement and to the EU Commissioner for Climate and Energy
- **EASD contributed to the preparation of the UNEP “Researchathon”**. EASD respond (with “Let’s influence Agenda 2030 for Serbia to have environmental pillar, ongoing since 2019”) to a public call for inputs to solicit good practices related to the promotion and implementation of the environmental rule of law. Through this “researchathon”, UNEP seeks to consult with a wide range of stakeholders in preparation for the UNEP 2021 Global Report on Environmental Rule of Law and to enhance the implementation and understanding of the environmental rule of law by promoting good practices and success stories.

Organization: "Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development "(Environmental Ambassadors, EASD)

- Punto.sud, within the frame of ENV.net project, successfully organized on November 9-11, 2020, virtual tour: **Circular city, transition economy and civil society – the experience from Italian practices in circular economy**. EASD representatives were in Milan, virtually
- EASD join IPEN and PAN in calling on the Director General of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) **to reconsider his recently announced alliance with CropLife International**, a trade association whose member corporations produce pesticides and genetically modified seeds. The global networks and organizations co-sponsoring this letter find it completely inappropriate for FAO to strengthen collaboration with CropLife.
- EASD participated at **European Environmental Bureau (EEB) – 2020 Annual Conference and General Assembly**. For the period 2020-2023, Serbian representative in the EEB Board will be Mrs. Aleksandra Mladenovic, President of the Environmental Ambassadors



- EASD publication on circular economy acknowledged by European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform
- EASD participate in EEB Climate and Energy Working Group, from November 2020; CE WG works on the 2030 climate and energy package and the implementation of the Paris Agreement, including the update of the 2050 roadmap.
- EASD organized **webinar on SDG13: Climate Action**, with 120+ participants registered



Organization: "Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development "(Environmental Ambassadors, EASD)



...actions are continuing





---

Organization: "Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development "(Environmental Ambassadors, EASD)

The full list of activities could be find at: <http://ambassadors-env.com/en/news-archive/> and <http://ambassadors-env.com/arhiva-vesti-2/>

**Note:** We are pleased to inform you that the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations at its substantive session, held on 18 June 2020, decided to take note of Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development's recent **quadrennial report (20015-2018)**. Quadrennial report particularly highlighting EASD contribution to the work of the United Nations, including the Sustainable Development Goals and other internationally agreed goals. This report is attached as EASD activity report in these years..

#### Some more facts about organization:

Organization is established in 2004 as association of citizens, and formally registered as association of professionals in 2012. At the end of 2020 legal representative remains **Aleksandra Mladenovic**, as the **President**. Role model is **Prof dr Andjelka Mihajlov, Honorable president** and former Serbian Minister for Natural Resources and Environment. **Organization is led by women. Council president (in kind): Danko Aleksic, from 2019. Staff:** projects based (in the last few years vary from 1 to 6 – full time, and 2-9 part time)

**Co-founders:** Andjelka Mihajlov, Sandra Radunovic, Hristina Stevanovic-Carapina, Ana Pudja, Filip Jovanovic and Milica Petrovic

**Honorable Members** are: Sandra Radunovic, Hristina Stevanovic-Carapina, Ana Pudja, Filip Jovanovic, Milica Petrovic, Danko Aleksic, Natasa Zugic Drakulic, Predrag Simonovic, Zora Dajic Stevanovic, Petar Marinkovic, Milena Tabasevic, Uros Rakic and Milica Momcilovic.

Forum of Members have more than **50 members**, and Forum of Friends have more than **1000 members**. Network of the Partners include about 50 institutions. EASD is coordinating network of more than **130** Eco-Schools in Serbia.

---